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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/643,679	08/24/2000	Gianfranco Guerra	004501-423	2567

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EXAMINER

PEREZ, GUILLERMO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/643,679

Applicant(s)

GUERRA ET AL.

Examiner

Guillermo Perez

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 26 June 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 13,16.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on June 26 , 2002 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Applicant's admitted Prior Art (APA).

Referring to claim 1, APA discloses a horizontal-axis electrical machine, comprising:

a casing (14), which is reinforced by casing ribs (24-27) and is subdivided into a bottom casing section (15) and a removable top casing section (16), and comprising:

a laminated stator core (11), which is braced in bearing rings (13), which are arranged perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the machine, are spaced apart from one another and are resiliently connected at a plurality of points of their outer circumference to the bottom casing section (15) by means of fastening parts (22);

wherein

between the laminated stator core (11) or the bearing rings (13) and the bottom casing section (15) there are arranged fixedly adjusted securing means (28,29), which during transportation of the machine limit the axial relative movement between the laminated stator core (11) or the bearing rings (13) and the bottom casing section (15), and during operation ensure a free expansion of the warmer laminated stator core (11) with respect to the colder casing (15 and page 3, lines 29-37).

Referring to claim 2, APA discloses that the casing ribs (24-27) run parallel to the bearing rings (13), and in that the securing means (28,29) are respectively arranged between a bearing ring (13) and a neighboring casing rib (24-27).

Referring to claim 3, APA discloses that the securing means (28-29) are designed as spacers which extend between the respective bearing ring (13) and the neighboring casing rib (24-27), and which are connected by one end securely to the bearing ring (13) or the neighboring casing rib (24-27) and have a clearance between the other end and the neighboring casing rib (24-27) or the bearing ring (13 and page 3, lines 29-37).

Referring to claim 4, APA discloses that the spacers are designed such that they are adjustable in their length (page 3, lines 29-37).

Referring to claim 5, APA discloses that the spacers comprise in each case a threaded sleeve and a screw screwed into the threaded sleeve (page 2 line 38 through page 3, line 3).

Referring to claim 6, APA discloses that the laminated stator core (11) extends on both sides of a vertical center plane oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of

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the machine, and in that the spacers for the bearing rings (13) further away from the vertical center plane are respectively arranged only between the bearing ring (13) and the neighboring casing rib (24-27) lying closer to the vertical center plane.

Referring to claim 7, APA discloses that the spacers for the bearing rings (13) lying closer to the vertical center plane are respectively arranged between the bearing ring (13) and the two neighboring casing ribs (24-27).

Referring to claim 8, APA discloses that the fastening parts (22) comprise elongate fastening plates (19) which act as leaf springs, are vertically arranged and are securely connected, in each case in the middle region to the bottom casing section (15) and at the ends of the bearing rings (13).

Referring to claim 9, APA discloses that the fastening plates (22) are welded, in each case in the middle region to the bottom casing section (15) and at the ends of the bearing rings (13).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 26, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicants' response that the securing means in APA are not able to ensure a free expansion of the stator core with respect to the casing, it must be noted that APA discloses that the securing means are fixedly ("*securely fastened*" Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition) adjusted ("*accommodated to suit a particular set of circumstances or requirements*" Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition) to allow a free expansion of the laminated stator.

The bolts in APA are securely fastened to accommodate to the situation of (1) limiting the axial relative movement between the laminated stator core and the bottom casing section during transportation and to accommodate to the situation of (2) ensuring a free expansion of the warmer laminated stator core with respect to the colder casing during operation. In both situations the securing means are fixedly adjusted.

In order to limit the axial relative movement during transportation the securing means in APA are fixedly adjusted; and in order to ensure a free expansion the securing means in APA are fixedly adjusted. Unscrewing the securing means to ensure a free expansion is part of the process of fixedly adjusting the securing means.

Fixedly adjusting the securing means of APA is an inherent characteristic of screw bolts (the securing means).

It is clear to the Examiner that the Applicants concept is that of placing the securing means at an unchanged distance from the ribs, however that limitation is not in the claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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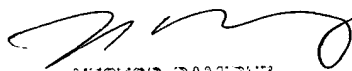
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guillermo Perez whose telephone number is (703) 306-5443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308 1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305 3432 for regular communications and (703) 305 3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

Guillermo Perez
September 12, 2002


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SUPERVISOR OF EXAMINERS
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